

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of all the claims now in the application (*i.e.*, claims 9, 11, 12, 15, 16, 19, 20, 27, and 29) is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Initially, the Examiner rejected claims 9, 11, 12, 27 and 28 as being indefinite because the limitation "said slot" in each of the claims lacked antecedent basis. Applicants have amended claims 9 and 27 to state "at least one of the slots" and believes this has proper antecedent basis from the previous recitation of "a plurality of slots". Note claim 28 has been canceled as no longer allowable.

The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for his indication that claim 20 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have added new claim 29 which includes the limitations of claims 15, 19 and 20. Consequently it is believed that this new claim 29 is allowable.

The Examiner rejected claims 9, 11, 15, 19, 27 and 28 as being anticipated by Zarnowski U.S. Patent No. 4,892,093 and rejected claims 12 and 16 as being obvious over a combination of Zarnowski et al. in view of Buttermilch et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,585,771. Applicants have amended independent claims 9, 15 and 27 to distinguish over Zarnowski et al. It appears from FIG. 1 of Zarnowski, reproduced on page 4 of the Office Action, that the Examiner is considering the curved flange portion to be the claimed curved perimeter at the end of the slots. Applicants have amended the claims to require the curved perimeter to be curved about a longitudinal axis which extends either anteriorly or posteriorly or, with respect to claim 1, from a top surface to a bottom surface, which surfaces connect the medial and lateral perimeter surfaces. This longitudinal axis is also claimed parallel to the bone contacting surface. Thus as now claimed the longitudinal axis of the curved end surfaces or pin

extends perpendicular to the Zarnowski et al. pins or curved surfaces.

It appears from FIG. 1 reproduced on page 4 of the Office Action that all the pins and curves of Zarnowski have longitudinal axis through their centers which extend from the medial to the lateral side and not anteriorly or posteriorly as claimed.

It is submitted that no interpretation of Zarnowski can be made which shows the pin arcuate surfaces facing the medial-lateral center of the block. As shown in FIG. 1, all the arcuate saw edge contacting surfaces which are curved are cylindrical pins face in the anterior-posterior direction.

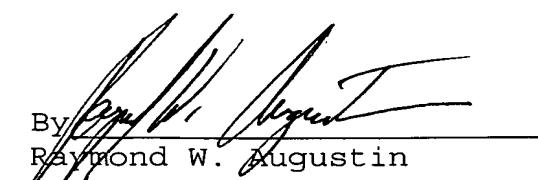
As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he telephone Applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

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